

## DEATH OF COL. BARRELL

*The Fredonia Censor*

January 4, 1888

As we go to press we learn that **Mr. A.Z. Madison** just received a dispatch from **Henry G. Wilson** at Pasadena, Cal., saying that **Col. D. Barrell** died there at two o'clock this Tuesday morning. This is sad and unexpected news, though he was past 84 and feeble. No farther particulars received.

[**Col. Barrell's** last letter.]

Matters at Pasadena.

Cold weather – Dry and Dusty – Munson Improving – A Demoralized P.O.

Pasadena, Cal., Dec. 26, 1887.

Dear Censor. – The weather has been quite cool here for California for a week or two past, some mornings down to about freezing point. No rain since the 1<sup>st</sup> inst., getting quite dusty again.

**Mr. Munson** is improving slowly, other Fredonia friends in usual health. I am getting quite well again, as compared with a month ago.

I wrote to you about the 7<sup>th</sup> inst. I think. Perhaps they send mail matter away and not deliver here. You can have little idea of the demoralized condition of our P.O. here. When I inquired with some earnestness for papers, two or three days ago, the deputy took me to a side room to show me wagon loads of sacks of papers that were accumulating, and unopened. They have no time or means at command to keep up – complain of the department, and appeal to the public, and obtain temporary aid, but it all goes slow as compared with corner lots. Building progresses rapidly, and many of the stores and dwellings erected are of the better sort. Today is the legal Christmas and nearly all stores are closed.

Yours, etc.,

**David Barrell**

*The Fredonia Censor*

January 11, 1888

The late **Col. David Barrell**.

We published late last week the news received just as we were going to press, of the death of our aged and respected fellow citizen, **Col. David Barrell**, at Pasadena, Cal., Tuesday morning, Jan. 3d. He was fortunately among kind friends, dying at the house of **Mr. Henry G. Wilson**, a Fredonia acquaintance of many years, and he could not have found kinder friends than **Mr. and Mrs. Wilson** the world over. His remains were embalmed and started on their last long journey to the old home, on Saturday, in charge of **Mr. Byron Munson**; will arrive here next Saturday. Funeral on Monday in the Baptist church at 11 a.m. probably.

For three years past **Col. Barrell** has sought the milder climate of Southern California, for the winter, and this year started for that State on the first week in November. He had serious trouble in reaching there, on account of delays and the crowded condition of the cars, and when he arrived at San Diego he was seriously ill, and his friends were alarmed for him. He returned to Colton, where, under the skillful treatment of **Dr. Hutchinson**, he recovered in a measure; went to Los Angeles, where he met friends and among others **Mrs. Hinckley**, whose letter is in this paper. His 84<sup>th</sup> birthday occurred while he was there, Dec. 22<sup>nd</sup>, and passed pleasantly. He went to Pasadena, where he met other friends, with whom he had parted last spring, and found pleasant quarters in the family of **Mr. Henry Wilson**, where he remained till seized by an apoplectic fit, which terminated his long and useful life on the morning of Jan. 3d. The news which was telegraphed here that day caused very general sadness in our village, where he had spent nearly fifty years of his active business life. He was the last of those engaged in mercantile life here in the earlier

years of our village history, only of them now remaining, **Hon. Alvah H. Walker** of St. Johns, Mich., who is some two years his senior, but who left here some 30 years ago.

**Col. Barrell** was much beloved by all who ever formed his acquaintance. Of the strictest integrity, energetic business habits, genial and kind in all the relations of life, and sustained by an unwavering Christian faith, always manifest from his earliest years, he goes to the grave like the fully ripened shock, leaving a memory of good deeds, and of Christian charity long to be remembered.

He has been a main pillar in the Baptist church during all his residence here, and had held the office of Deacon, which he faithfully adorned by a Godly life and loving devotion.

The facts for the following brief biographical sketch were furnished us by his lifelong friend and companion **A.Z. Madison, Esq.** **Mr. Madison** has known him since he was eight years old. Their parents lived on farms five miles apart and belonged to the same church.

**David Barrell** was the fourth son of **Deacon Colburn Barrell**, of Hartford, Washington county, N.Y. He was born near South Hartford Village on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of December, 1803, on the farm homestead. His education was received wholly in the Common school, and in one of the best Christian families. He worked on the farm until about 17 or 18, and was then for some three years a clerk in the store of **Benjamin Hyde** (the father of the late **L.L. Hyde** of Dunkirk) in the North Hartford Village. At the close of this clerkship, in 1825, he left Hartford and went to Gouverneur, St. Lawrence Co., N.Y., and was taken in as a partner in a store by the firm of **Rowley and Madison**, the latter being **A.Z. Madison** of this Village. A few months later, the senior partner left this firm, and the name was changed to **Madison and Barrell**. Subsequently, some years later, he had a store of his own, in same village, and did considerable business. About 1829 he removed to the old village of Evans Center, Erie Co., and did more business there in selling goods. About 1836 he removed to Fredonia, here he again sold goods for many years and was well known as a merchant and a successful business man. He was converted to Christ in his youth, before leaving his native town, and has since been known as a uniform Christian. He returned to Hartford in 1826, and married **Miss Clarinda Yale**, a niece of **David Doane, Esq.** He was the longest to live of all his father's family and also his own, his father and mother, five brothers and two sisters, and his wife and four children all having preceded him. All his brothers and sisters were professed Christians, and amongst them one minister, four deacons, and one minister's wife. His wife and daughter, (the only child that lived to be mature) were professors of religion also. This daughter became the wife of **Salem Kennedy, Esq.** of Buffalo. She died many years ago, but a warm attachment between **Col. Barrell** and **Mr. Kennedy** has ever remained, and **Col. B.** made his home with "**Salem**," as he always called him, before leaving for California for the last time.

He held several offices both military and civil, and was active in the discharge of duties incumbent.

While in Gouverneur he was made Captain of a military company, of which **A.Z. Madison** was Lieutenant, and in Fredonia was Captain of the Fredonia Guards, and was afterward made Colonel of Militia. In the Campaign of 1840 he went with his company to Fort Meigs, where was celebrated the famous battle of Tippecanoe, fought by **Gen. Harrison** Nov. 7, 1811, against the Indians.

He was one of the first trustees of Forest Hill Cemetery, organized in June, 1854, and for more than twenty years was its Secretary and Superintendent. The Cemetery Association will take proper action in memory of his valuable services.

In a letter to **S.M. Clement** of Buffalo, **Col. Barrell** wrote Dec.24:

I did not think I should ever see another mile stone in life, which, however, I passed two days ago. I am a wonder to myself, every day of my life, that I should so far recuperate as to be quite comfortable again, while men of some value to the world are called hence, like **Mr. Chandler, Leroy Atwood**, and others since I left. But I have left behind me the elastic step, and all the vigorous movements I once possessed. Everything is moderate, drone-like now.

I had nothing in particular to induce my trembling hand to make the effort to write you, only that as I often, very often, think of you, and the many acts of kindness received at your hands in the long past, and because of my deafness, am in a measure shut out from social intercourse. I have nothing else to do than think, think of the past, the present, and of the future, which to me is near. Oh that I might constantly, always, feel a readiness for it, that is so near.

*The Fredonia Censor*

*January 18, 1888*

Funeral of the late **Col. David Barrell**

The funeral of the late **Dea. Barrell** was largely attended at the Baptist Church on Monday, our entire community uniting in tribute to the memory of one of our most respected citizens. **Dr. F.B. Palmer** read the 90<sup>th</sup> Psalm, **Rev. A. Kingsbury** made an appropriate prayer, **Rev. C.E. Smith** gave a deserved eulogy on the character of the departed, speaking particularly of the office of the Deacon, which he had discharged so acceptably for many years. Beautiful white flowers adorned the casket, and nearly the entire audience took a last look at the features of a citizen whom they all respected and esteemed.

The bearers were **R.H. Hall, Geo. W. Belden, Alva Colburn, E.I. Wilcox, G.N. Frazine, Geo. Hutchinson.**

Honorary bearers were **C. Abbey, H.A. Buck, (?) D.M. Miner, E.F. Warren, H.P. Perrin, W. McKinstry.**

The *Watertown Times* of Saturday has the following:

There are probably many persons now living at Gouverneur and neighboring towns who will remember **David Barrell**, who was a merchant at that place between fifty and sixty years ago, but since 1836 has been a resident of Fredonia, in Chautauqua county. They will regret to hear that so good and useful a man as he was all through a long life, has gone hence, having died on the 3d inst., at Pasadena, Southern California, where he has spent the winter months for several years. He was a member of the firm **Madison & Barrell**, at Gouverneur, and while there was chosen captain of a military company. He had just completed his 84<sup>th</sup> year.

At a meeting of the Trustees of Forest Hill Cemetery Association, held at the office of the President on the afternoon of Jan. 11, 1888, there were present, **W. McKinstry**, President; **John S. Beggs, Walter Finkle, Geo. N. Frazine, P.H. Stevens**, Trustees.

The President announced the purpose of the meeting to be to take proper action relative to the death of our late associate, **Col. David Barrell**, and followed with a beautiful and feeling tribute in memory of the departed. On motion of **John S. Beggs, Esq.**, a committee was appointed who prepared and presented the following preamble and resolutions:

We are again called upon to mourn the loss of one of the founders of our Cemetery Association. In less than six years from its organization, **Hon. Judge McPherson**, its first President, was called to rest in its beautiful grounds. In 1872 **H.J. Miner**, its first Treasurer, was taken from us. And now after 33 years of association with us, **Col. David Barrell** is removed by death. **Mr. Barrell** was elected in 1854 one of the first of the six Trustees, and with the exception of the time from 1855 to 1865, when he had removed from this place, has held the office till last year, when the infirmities of age compelled his retirement, much to the regret of his associates.

On the death of **Allen Hinckley, Esq.**, who held the office of Sec'y and Supt. From 1857 to 1865 **Mr. Barrell** held the office of Sec'y till he retired from the Board of Trustees. During his administration of the affairs of the association the grounds had been enlarged and the funds greatly increased, having been managed with the most scrupulous care and integrity. In view of the loss sustained by this community in the decease of **Dea. Barrell**, we, the Trustees of the Cemetery Association

Resolve, That whereas an all wise Providence has removed one who has been associated with us in the management of the affairs of the Cemetery Association these many years, and whose loss we deeply deplore, whose purity of character and unswerving integrity have entitled him to our highest esteem, whose untiring attention to the responsible trusts reposed in him has been unfailing and his ability and good judgment have been equal to any emergency. That we will hold his memory in grateful remembrance and will attend the funeral in a body in token of our great respect and esteem for the memory of our revered associate.

Resolved, That these proceedings be spread upon our records and published in the Village papers, and copy presented to the family of the deceased. **P.H. Stevens**, Sec'y.

Note (January, 2007) – the above items were contributed to the Baptist archive by Douglas Shepard and transcribed by Wendy Straight.